



WPD NEWS

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DATE: December 27, 2006
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**** Media Advisory ****

“Celebrate Safely” To Be Observed Again In 2006

Members of the Wichita Police Department and the community once again are collaborating to urge citizens to celebrate the ringing in of the New Year safely, it was announced today by City Council Member Sharon Fearey.

“This collaborative effort known as Celebrate Safely has helped Wichita celebrate the New Year without the deaths other communities around the country have experienced due to celebratory gunfire,” said Fearey.

In order to help Wichitans understand the importance of celebrating safely, Ms. Fearey, members of the Wichita Police Department and volunteers from the community will meet at 12:00 noon on Thursday, December 28th at Patrol North, 3015 W. 21st Street North.

“Each year, the number of reports of celebratory shots fired on New Years Eve have been declining,” said Fearey. “We hope that number goes down again this year as well,” she said.

“Celebratory gunfire is both dangerous and illegal,” said Patrol North Sergeant Santiago Hungria. “City of Wichita Ordinance 5.88.20 calls for both fines and jail time for discharging a firearm in the city. “

Celebrate Safely is a citywide project that has drawn broad community support. In addition to the Wichita Police Department, the program is supported by Interfaith Ministries GoZones, the Wichita and Sedgwick County chapter of the

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National Latino Police Officer Association, KYQQ Radio, Wichita Independent Neighborhoods, Weed and Seed, El Pueblo Neighborhood Association, Historic Midtown Citizens Association, North Riverside Neighborhood Association, Riverside Citizens Association and the Kansas Army National Guard.

As part of the project, representatives from several organizations will hand out flyers in both English and Spanish that will inform citizens of the dangers of celebratory gunfire.

For more information about Celebrate Safely, you may contact Captain Felecia Norris or Sergeant Santiago Hungria at Patrol North, 316-688-9500.